

Message Text

SECRET

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SECRET CAIRO 19086

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

FOR THE SECRETARY, ATHERTON, AND SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PEPR PGOV EG IS US

SUBJECT: SADAT AND SINAI--CAMP DAVID STRATEGY

REF: TEL AVIV 10418

1. WHILE I DO NOT KNOW ALL OF THE DETAILS OF WHAT THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED WITH SADAT, IT IS MY DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE THINKING OF CAMP DAVID PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES (INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL LANGUAGE) AS IT APPLIES TO WEST BANK/GAZA. THEY WANT THIS TO BE THE FOCUS OF THE TALKS, SINCE THESE HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR OBSTRUCTIONS TO PROGRESS. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, ONE REASON WHY GAMASY IS NOT BEING BROUGHT ALONG IS THAT IT MIGHT PROJECT AN IMAGE THAT SINAI IS BEING DISCUSSED. SADAT AGAIN PUBLICLY REAFFIRMED TO THE PROVISIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF HIS NEW PARTY THE OTHER EVENING HIS REFUSAL TO GO FOR WHAT HE CALLED A "SEPARATIST SETTLEMENT."

2. I APPRECIATE SAM'S VIEW, BUT I MUST SAY IT IS A BIT

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MUCH TO ASK SADAT TO PAY THE PRICE OF AGREEING TO WHAT WOULD IN EFFECT BE A SINAI SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK SIMPLY IN RETURN FOR BEGIN'S PUBLICLY ACQUIESCING IN THE PRINCIPLE OF WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT EVEN A WORD ON WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WEST BANK/GAZA AFTER FIVE YEARS. WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS, AS WE HAVE FREQUENTLY POINTED OUT TO THE ISRAELIS, IS BOTH EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT IN UN RESOLUTION 242, HAS

BEEN ACCEPTED BY PAST ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS AND SHOULD HARDLY DEMAND A PRICE--AND ESPECIALLY A PRICE AS HIGH AS REFTEL SUGGESTS. THE PRICE PAID ALREADY, WHICH IRATE EGYPTIANS POINT OUT HAS BEEN CONVENIENTLY POCKETED BY THE ISRAELIS, IS SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IN ALL ASPECTS AS PART OF A PACKAGE SETTLEMENT. THE RECENT ISRAELI "SOVEREIGNTY" DECLARATION HAS MADE NO IMPACT HERE DESPITE ALL OF OUR EFFORTS TO POINT OUT ITS IMPORTANCE.

3. IF WE DO HAVE IN MIND ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A CLOSE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE WEST BANK/GAZA SETTLEMENT AND A SINAI SETTLEMENT AT THE CAMP DAVID TALKS, WE WILL BE WELL ADVISED TO ALERT THE EGYPTIANS TO DO A BIT OF THINKING ABOUT THIS. TO BE SURE, SINCE SADAT IS THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT OF GOE'S SINAI POLICY, HE MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE PREPARED TO OFFER HIS CURRENT VIEWS. YET IN ABSENCE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS BY BEGIN ON THE WEST BANK/GAZA, HE IS UNLIKELY TO GO MUCH BEYOND WHAT HE HAS ALREADY TOLD US EARLIER (CAIRO 7967). EILTS

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